Pollution Control Devices in Cement Factories in Assam

1422. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Private and Public Sector cement factories established in Assam so far, district-wise;

(b) the total number of Cement factories functioning at present, district-wise;

(c) whether proper pollution control devices are installed in all Cement factories, fulfilling the technical terms and conditions for a factory;

(d) if so, the details thereof, district-wise; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the action taken by Government against the concerned cement factories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) According to the Central Pollution Control Board, there are two cement factories established and functioning at present in Assam, viz. (1) Bokajan Cement Factory, Bokajan of Cement Corporation of India and (2) M/s Vinay Cement Ltd., NC Hills. Umrangshu.

(c) and (d) Pollution control facilities such as Bag filters, Electrostatic Precipitators (ESP), Wet sorubbers etc. have been provided in the two cement plants.

(e) Does not arise.

Reconstitution of Central Pollution Control Board

1423. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Pollution Control Board is being reconstituted; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Central Pollution Control Board had been constituted as per the provisions of section 3(2) of Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. As per section 5 of the above Act, a member of the Board shall hold office for a term of three years from the date of his/her nomination provided that a member shall, notwithstanding the expiration of his/her term, continue to hold office until his/her successor enters upon his/her office. The Central Board was last constituted on 1.2.1995 and the term of the Board has expired on 31.1.1998.

Encroachment of Forest Areas for Setting up Tourist Resorts

1424. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether large forest areas have been denuded or encroached upon for setting up tourist resorts and tourist sports games sports in different States;

(b) if so, the total forest areas so encroached upon in differenet States and how much of it has been encroached upon during the last five years, including the current year; and

(c) the steps taken to conserve, protect or restore the forest land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) There is no information with the Government of India that large forest areas have been denuded or encorached upon for setting up tourist re-sorts and tourist sports and games spots in different States.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Major steps being taken by the Government for conservation and protection of forests are as under: